



THE CHURCH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Third Sunday of

Advent

“John answered them all, saying,
‘I am baptizing you with water, but
one mightier than I is coming.

I am not worthy to loosen
the thongs of his sandals.

He will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit and fire.”

LK 3:16

DECEMBER 16, 2018 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 7:30 am
Thursday 8:30 am
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 8:00 and 10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 - 4:30 pm

San Damiano Adoration Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

Weekdays

Mission Statement

The Mission of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church is to proclaim and celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ.
We fulfill our mission as Christian disciples by intentionally responding to God's call to grow in holiness.

4030 JACKSON STREET NE | COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN 55421 | 763-788-9062 | ICCSONLINE.ORG

From the Pastor's Desk

Rejoice Sunday

The Third Sunday of the Advent Season has traditionally been referred to as "Gaudete Sunday." This is because the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass in Latin was "Gaudete" which can be translated into English as "Rejoice!" With little over a week to go until the celebration of Christmas we certainly have cause for rejoicing. We will be commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



His humble entry into the world in the stable of Bethlehem fills us with tremendous joy at the desire of God to save us from our sins and leads us to true freedom. As a parish community of our church and school there are many additional reasons for rejoicing at the goodness of the Lord over the last few months.

Some of the highlights include a successful parish festival back in August that drew together people from all around the Twin Cities. The school marathon in October was a great opportunity to support the students of the grade school. To complement those happy moments and memories you were also very generous in reaching out to those who are in need with the special collections that were taken up. Funds were gathered to help folks here in the United States for the Hurricane Relief and those living in the Mission Territories, including our Archdiocesan Mission Parish in Venezuela. For your generous hearts and souls I thank you very much.

May the Lord bless you abundantly on this Gaudete Sunday!
Fr. James

For those who would appreciate seeing the actual numbers from the recent events here you are:

I. C. Summer Jam:	_____	\$47,577.25
I. C. School Marathon:	_____	\$25,003.77
Support for the Missions:	_____	\$2,425.27
Hurricane Relief:	_____	\$2,728.33



This Week's Readings and Observances

Sunday, December 16, *Third Sunday of Advent*

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [6]/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

Monday, December 17

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17

Tuesday, December 18

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25

Wednesday, December 19

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25

Thursday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38

Friday, December 21, *St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church*

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

Saturday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56

Sunday, December 23, *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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*"Rejoice in the Lord
always. I shall say it
again: rejoice!"*

(Phil 4:4)



s.a.ashmore

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Eucharistic Adoration

*“Rejoice in the Lord always.
I shall say it again: Rejoice!”*

(Philippian's 4:7)

St. Paul goes on in this reading to say, “then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Jesus Christ.” These words described exactly what comes from Eucharistic adoration. Jesus is who adorers come to visit and adore. They leave the chapel with peace that carries them through their week. Come and find the peace of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration. All are welcome!

We urgently need additional adorers to cover the following hours:

- Mondays at noon, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm
- Tuesdays at noon, 3:00 pm (partner) and 8:00 pm
- Wednesdays at noon, 1:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm (partner) and 7:00 pm
- Thursdays at 11:00 am



We also need additional substitute adorers. If you would like information about adoration or to sign up for an hour, please call Sandy at 763-789-3246 or Fran at 763-788-0924.

Note: The chapel will be closed on December 24-25 for the Christmas Holiday and will be closed on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year Holiday.

The Road to Discipleship

Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments

I wish I were a better steward. I would like to think I am a pretty generous person, and I do work hard to cultivate the characteristics of a good Everyday Steward in my life. However, stewardship is about more than giving. It is also about prudence and wise planning. It is about storing up grain for the lean years and making sure there is enough oil to light your lamps when the power goes out. If I were a better steward, I would have that \$1,000 emergency fund to dip into when I need a car repair. I would save more for retirement and vacation. I would have more food in the garage freezer because I bought more on sale and prepared for when money was a little tighter. In a nutshell, I would be prepared for whatever comes my way, good or bad.

Advent is a time of preparation. We not only prepare for Christmas, but for the day when Jesus Christ returns again. Unfortunately, we too often act like this is the only time to prepare for such events. We should be preparing all throughout the year.

If we only focus on our spirituality at Advent and Lent, then we are poor stewards of our time the rest of the year. The wise steward is always cultivating their faith and working to improve their relationship with God. They know that they need to be prepared for anything at any time. They stand ready, waiting for the call of their God.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

School

School News

Our school is festive and decorated for Advent and for the upcoming Christmas season. The school staff has been busy decorating the classroom doors to greet children and their families. Scenes of stockings hung by the fireplace and nativity scenes are on our preschool doorways!



'tis the season...

*Join us at Immaculate Conception School
for our Christmas Concert!*



“God chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.” —John 15:16

Christmas Concert

Immaculate Conception School Auditorium

Grades K - 3

Wednesday, December 19, 2018, 7:00 pm

Enjoy an evening of both sacred and secular Christmas classics performed by Immaculate Conception students under the direction of Katherine Wall, Tucker Moore and Phil Smithley. Accompanist, Dr. Ray Bannon.

Admission is free—all are welcome!



Social Justice

Coins for Social Justice

Small Change Can Do a World of Good! Our next collection is December 22 and 23. Thank you for your generosity!

Council of Catholic Women

The Nut Sale

This is your last chance to purchase on-hand nuts or pick-up your orders. The Council of Catholic Women thanks everyone that purchased items at our Nut Sale.

We wish everyone a blessed Christmas!



Knights of Columbus

Knights of Columbus

The Knights will be hosting their annual Christmas dinner and white elephant gift exchange on Thursday December 20 at Immaculate Conception Church. Social time starts at 6:00 pm, followed by dinner and then the gift exchange. Those attending should bring a wrapped gift (something they have no need for, but may be useful to someone else). The gifts do not have to say who the giver is. If you are planning to attend and are not on the permanent attendee list, please call 763-789-8362 or 651-636-2382 to make a reservation.

The annual Memorial Mass and dinner to honor deceased members was held on November 15 with 72 people in attendance. After the dinner, Linus Ulfig spoke about his time on a cruise in Russia in September.

Bulletin Sponsor

Thank Our Advertiser of the Week...

Bona Bros. Automotive

5333 University Avenue

763-586-6050 • bonabros.com

This advertiser, and the others on the back of the bulletin, make this bulletin possible, please support them when you can.

Pastoral Ministry

Fellowship

Join us next Sunday for fellowship hosted by the our Social Justice Committee. Enjoy donuts, oatmeal and beverages in Fellowship Hall (located in the lower level of the church) after the 8:00 and 10:00 am Masses.

In Need of Prayer? Please Call Us.

To add a name to the weekend Mass petitions or the bulletin, please call Vicki at 763-788-9062 x 212. For private prayer call Larene at 763-789-4246.

Pray For Our Loved Ones Who Have Died

Especially *David Fuhrmann, Sebe Heintz, William Dettman* and all who have died from war. May God grant them everlasting peace and joy in the kingdom of heaven.

Pray For All the Sick—Especially:

Jack Anderson	Steven Lauinger	Irene Spensley
Edward Ardito	Tom Leight Jr.	Bruce Plochocki
Paul Bona	Roger Mack	Elaine Thunstrom
Michelle Cadieux	Johnnie Meyering	Lois Weyers
Nichole Castonguay	Janet Mihalik	Germaine Wolsfeld
Mary Fredenburg	Izzy Miller	<i>and all those on</i>
Gerald Krawiecki	Shawn Moulzolf	<i>our prayer chain</i>
Joan Landberg	Greg Sery	

If your name was removed and you would like to continue to be on the prayer list please call 763-788-9062 x 212.

Parish News

2018-2019 Tax Deduction Information

This is just a reminder that, regardless of the date on the check, we must record your donations by the date we receive them or the date on which they are postmarked. For example, if a check dated December 31, 2018 is received by us on January 1 or later, it must be recorded as a 2019 donation. If you send us a donation through the postal service and the envelope is postmarked December 31, 2018 or earlier, this will be recorded as a 2018 donation even if we receive the envelope in January. As these are IRS regulations, we have no flexibility in the matter.

Share the Gift of Your Smile—Be a Greeter!

Greeters are needed for the upcoming Christmas and New Year Masses. If you are interested in greeting at any of these liturgies, sign up sheets are available in the Lending Library. Thank you.



Word of Life

“In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples.”

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
2018-19 Respect Life Reflection, www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection

Why Do We Do That?

Catholic Traditions Explained

Question: *What is the Hispanic Advent custom of Las Posadas?*

Answer: Posada is the Spanish word for inn or lodging. Las Posadas refers to a traditional Advent custom in preparation for the birth of Jesus, beginning on December 16th. For nine successive evenings, groups reenact the search of Mary and Joseph for shelter in Bethlehem.

Two children dress as Mary and Joseph, sometimes with Mary riding on an actual donkey. They are usually accompanied by children dressed as angels and shepherds along with the Wise Men. Adults accompany them as they process to designated homes, where they sing Christmas songs and request lodging. Part of the group enters the home and becomes the chorus that responds to the request for lodging. In the beginning, the request is rebuffed. They move to several more homes where the ritual is repeated. Eventually, at the last home, their need is recognized, and they all enter the home where a party ensues. This is repeated in different neighborhoods and homes each of the nine days.

While this custom teaches children an important aspect of the Christmas story, it also emphasizes the need for hospitality to strangers and the continual need we all have to make room for Jesus in our “posada.” As we struggle to arrive at a fair and just immigration policy, especially with Mexico, it would be good to recall the fact that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were also immigrants looking for a hospitable place to dwell.



Live the Liturgy—Inspiration for the Week

This Gaudete Sunday calls us to rejoice because the Lord is near. Does your heart rejoice and sing, or are the pressures and burdens of life weighing you down? We can easily become overwhelmed. The weaknesses and sins of life, indeed our own weakness and sin, eat away at the joy and hope God wants us to know. Those who are grounded in their faith and possess deep spiritual lives know that God is near. Realizing this puts life into perspective. We really want to be free from our burdens but do not always know how to achieve this. We keep stumbling and falling. Advent is a time when we can learn to “do life differently,” just like John the Baptist instructed the crowds. Joy and hope are the gifts God offers, not anxiety and despair.

Sunday, December 16

Mass, *Intention, IC Parishioners* _____ 8:00 am
Nut Sale _____ 8:30 am - 11:30 pm
Parish Pancake Breakfast _____ 8:30 am - 11:45 pm
Mass, (*Rite of Acceptance*) _____ 10:00 am
Intention, +Cliff Shedlov
Children’s Liturgy of the Word _____ 10:00 am

Monday, December 17

St. Jude’s Circle _____ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Girl Scouts _____ 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
RCIC II _____ 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm
Boy Scouts _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, December 18

Mass, *Intentions, +Rotilo Santos,* _____ 7:30 am
Glafira Jaimes & Anai & Magdalena Hernandez
Social Justice Committee _____ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Finance Council _____ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Cub Scouts _____ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Charismatic Prayer Group _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Wednesday, December 19

Mass, *Intention, +James Malisheski, OFS* _____ 7:30 am
Intramurals _____ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Parish Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Reconciliation _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Christmas Concert, Grades K–3 _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Thursday, December 20

Mass (School), *Intention, +Marvin Sowada* _____ 8:30 am
Communion Service, *Royce Place* _____ 3:15 pm
Knights of Columbus Dinner _____ 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Bell Choir Rehearsal _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
RCIA _____ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Friday, December 21

Mass _____ 7:30 am
Intentions, +Jim Remark, +Lorraine Kroll
Our Brothers Keeper _____ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Formation _____ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, December 22

Reconciliation _____ 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Mass, *Intention, +Clarence Stanoch* _____ 5:00 pm
Our Lady of Guadalupe Prayer Group _____ 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Sunday, December 23

Mass, *Intention, +John Sichak* _____ 8:00 am
Fellowship _____ 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
Mass, *Intention, IC Parishioners* _____ 10:00 am
Children’s Liturgy of the Word _____ 10:00 am
+Deceased

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Gospel Meditation

Third Sunday of Advent

In Christianity, we hear often about the “Good News.” We might often associate it with Jesus’ compassion to the poor, his healings and miracles, and the salvation he won for us. In today’s Gospel, we read of John the Baptist. “Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.” Yet as we examine the rest of the reading, we see examples of John’s preaching. If you have two cloaks, give one away. Don’t cheat others out of their money, extort, or lie. And, of course, the warning that the Messiah is on the move and “his winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” Merry Christmas?

Not only do John’s listeners enjoy his message, but they seem to think he might be the awaited Messiah! To understand today’s Gospel, it’s important to understand the Jewish people. For most of their history, God’s chosen people had been under someone else’s heel. They were slaves in Egypt. Their kingdoms were ravaged first by the Assyrians, then the Babylonians. Now they were under the yoke of the Roman Empire. Familiar with being strangers in a strange land, welcoming the stranger, caring for the vulnerable, and enacting justice was incredibly important to them as a people. While John’s words may seem odd or strong to our modern ears, this call to justice was welcome, even if it was directed at the hearer.

The truth is, no one is exempt from John’s call to repentance. We all have further to go in the Christian life. We can all grow in virtue and love our neighbors more generously. The Church gives us the Advent season to examine our own hearts. Did any of John’s warnings resonate with you? That could be a great thing to bring to Jesus this week!



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“Cry out with joy and gladness, for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.”

(Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6)

Pray for a Priest

Will You Pray for a Priest Each Day?

Prayer Suggestion: *Dear Jesus, hear my prayer on behalf of your priest, Father [N]. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life. Be his comfort, his joy, and his strength. Amen.*

- December 16 - Rev. Aaron Meszaros, CSSR
- December 17 - Rev. Frederick Meyer
- December 18 - Rev. John Meyer
- December 19 - Rev. Nathaniel Meyers
- December 20 - Rev. Michael Miller
- December 21 - Rev. Marcus Milless
- December 22 - Rev. John Mitchell

Church Directory

Emergency (Death or Anointing) 763-788-9062 (#9)

PARISH

- Parish Office 763-788-9062
(Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm)
- Parish Fax 763-788-0202
- Reception Desk**.....x 201
- Parochial Administrator, Fr. James Peterson**x 215
- Accounting Specialist, Julie Mack**x 204
- Director of Advancement and Discipleship,**
Mary Beth Pfeiferx 203
- Deacon, Larry Palkert**
- Communications Coordinator, Sue Ashmore**x 205
- Records Coordinator, Terri Glaeser**x 227
- Director of Marketing, Cathleen Cary**x 213
- Director of Music and Liturgy, Ray Bannon**x 214
- Maintenance Supervisor, Doug Olson**x 218
- Pastoral Minister, Vicki Bazille**x 212
- Special Event Coordinator, Jami Bridgeman**.....x 221
- Wedding Coordinator, Barb Hartwick**.....x 204
- FAITH FORMATION**
- Director of Faith Formation, Mary Nawrocki**x 210
- Administrative Assistant, Mary Scott**.....x 208

SCHOOL

- School Office 763-788-9065
- School Fax 763-788-9066
- Principal, Jane Bona** (jbona@immac-church.org).....x 220
- Administrative Assistant, Sherri Macko**x 219

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Dave Kellner</i> | <i>Kathy Johnson</i> |
| <i>Charles Karanja</i> | <i>Stacy McVary</i> |
| <i>Marcus Paulson</i> | <i>Sandy Sichak</i> |
| <i>Jane Bona</i> (School Principal) | |
| <i>Steve Smith</i> (Parish Trustee) | |

Copies of the Parish Council meeting minutes are available in the pamphlet racks at the entrances to the church.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

Low gluten hosts (.002 gluten) are available. Come to the Sacristy before Mass to request one.

Collections

Week 21—December 8-9, 2018

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 5,682.00
Plate Collection	1,040.00
Holy Day	1,704.00
WeShare Online Giving	310.00
Total Weekly Collection	\$ 8,736.00

As 2018 comes to a close...

Please remember Immaculate Conception Church
in your year-end giving.



Your tax-deductable gift can be made by cash,
check, stock transfer, or online via WeShare.

To donate via WeShare using your debit,
credit card, checking, or savings account:

- 1** Visit ICCSonline.org
and click Give Online.
- 2** Select your donation
amount and frequency.
- 3** Enter your account and
payment information.



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To donate stock, contact Terri Glaeser
at 763-788-9062 x 227 or
tglaeser@immac-church.org